1 THE COURT: Please be seated. You can call the 2. case. 3 THE COURTROOM DEPUTY: Criminal cause for 4 sentencing, docket number 15-CR-284. United States versus 5 Love. 6 Please state your appearances. 7 MR. GILMAN: Good morning, Your Honor, Andrew Gilman 8 for the United States. With me at counsel table is Jared 9 Maneggio from the U.S. Probation Department, as well as an 10 intern from my office, Diane Hu. 11 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Federal Defenders by Peter 12 Kirchheimer for Mr. Love. This is Mr. Love sitting next to 13 me. 14 Good morning, Judge. 1.5 THE COURT: Good morning to everyone. 16 Can I have the spelling of the last name of the 17 intern, please. 18 MS. HU: H-U. 19 THE COURT: Spell your first name, traditional 20 spelling D-I-A-N-E. 21 MS. HU: Yes, Your Honor. 22 And is there any objection to the THE COURT: 23 student intern sitting in at the sentencing? 24 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: No, Your Honor, there is not. 25 THE COURT: So a lot has happened since we were last

1 here, both in the area of Supreme Court case decisions and 2. Second Circuit case decisions and briefing in this case. 3 So I know when we were last here in October, Mr. Love -- I know it's a lot to remember, it's kind of far 4 5 back to remember -- I had explained to you how we will proceed, but I think given that most of your prior contact 6 7 with the justice system has been through the state court, I 8 would feel more comfortable just explaining to you again how 9 we're going to proceed and because I have received additional 10 submissions from counsel, I want to make sure that we're all 11 on the same page and that we have all the same submissions, so 12 I will go through that as well. 13 And the first thing I'm going to do, I'm going to 14 start with that, putting on the record everything that I've 15 received and considered for that reason to make sure that all 16 of us have copies of what's been submitted. And there were 17 still, of course, outstanding objections to the sentencing 18 quidelines in the presentence report. 19 I think in terms of anything else there were no 20 objections --21 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: There were not, Judge. 22 THE COURT: -- I'm correct about that? 23 But the objections to the guideline range obviously

have to be resolved by the Court, that's part of the subject

of the additional briefing that we had and also part of the

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subject of the additional case law that has emerged since we were last here. And before I can impose sentence, as an initial step I have to do my very best to calculate that guideline range and hopefully get it right because that is a first step. But the guidelines are advisory, they are not binding on the Court.

The Court has to consider whether there are any departures that are appropriate either within that advisory guideline system or pursuant to Title 18 of the United States Code Section 3553(a) in applying those factors that are in that section, determining whether or not a variance from the guidelines is appropriate. In other words, a sentence outside of the guidelines is appropriate.

In that regard I'll give the attorneys an opportunity to address the Court. You also have a right to address the Court, if you wish to address the Court I will give you an opportunity to do that, and then after we get through all of that is when I will impose sentence.

Do you understand that procedure, Mr. Love?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: All right. So we have, of course, the presentence report which was prepared or disclosed on September 9th, 2016. It also has a sentence recommendation and of course that presentence report was prepared with the sentence guideline manual that was in effect at the time and

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appropriately so the guideline manual from 2015. I mention that because we are going to have a lot discussion about which guideline manual applies here.

There is the defendant's objections to the presentence report dated September 14, 2016, the government's letter of September 23rd, 2016 indicating no objections to the presentence report. The government's response to defendant's objections to the presentence report by letter dated September 28, 2016. There is an addendum to the presentence report issued by probation that was filed October 4th of 2016 and, in essence, probation disagreed with the objections to the guideline range raised by defense counsel. And then there was additional information that was provided to supplement the presentence report about your own personal background, some of it was verification of certain information including your medical history documenting drug addiction and hospitalization for that, also other medical issues, injuries that you have sustained over time, and also mental health treatment that you've had over time. Most of it occurred around 2008 according to that addendum.

There is the defendant's sentencing memorandum of October 6 of 2016 and there were exhibits that were attached which were the objections to the presentence report and some photographs, I guess a video surveillance from the bank robberies. There is the government's sentencing memorandum

1	dated October 17th.
2	I note that when we were here on October 24th the
3	Court accepted Mr. Love's guilty plea to the entire
4	indictment, Counts One, Two and Three.
5	There is the defendant's supplemental briefing from
6	March 15th, there was a brief letter, this is post-Beckels.
7	There is a more in-depth brief that was provided by the
8	defense dated March 27th and the March 15th letter is attached
9	as an exhibit, and then the government's responsive brief
10	dated April 12th of 2017.
11	So that's everything that I have received. Is that
12	everything I should have, Mr. Gilman?
13	MR. GILMAN: Yes, Your Honor.
14	THE COURT: Mr. Kirchheimer?
15	MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Yes, Judge.
16	THE COURT: And, Mr. Love, did you have an
17	opportunity to first of all, did you get a chance to see
18	these documents?
19	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
20	THE COURT: Did you get a chance to review them with
21	your attorney?
22	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
23	THE COURT: Do you understand the objections that
24	were made by your attorney? I know it's a bit complicated.
25	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

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THE COURT: Aside from the objections that were raised by your attorney, in connection with anything else that's in the presentence report, especially anything concerning your prior background, anything like that, is there anything that you think still needs correcting? THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am. So I have reviewed very carefully the THE COURT: parties' submissions and of course additional case law and unless there is something that's not covered in the papers that the parties would like to address with me, I'm prepared to rule on the objections that were made to the presentence report. MR. GILMAN: The government is happy to rest on the papers at this time, Your Honor. MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Only one. THE COURT: Only one. MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Only one suggestion, Judge, which is that it's -- again, I keep forgetting the name of the case, after -- in the early days post-Booker, Judge Newman wrote a decision about the application of the advisory guidelines and did say that if in cases where it was extraordinarily complicated to resolve the quidelines issues and where the quidelines weren't necessarily going to be followed, it was not necessarily necessary to do so. And so I would suggest to

the Court that one manner of proceeding --

THE COURT: You're talking about a case prior to
Dorvee?

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Oh, yes, Judge.

THE COURT: Like around 2006.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: 2006 or '7. It starts with how are we going to proceed in the Second Circuit with the guideline cases, but the point is if it's not necessary to the sentence and if it's too complicated, you don't have to resolve the guidelines question.

My argument in -- if we lose on the career offender issue, my argument will then be that even if he were to be a career offender, the Court shouldn't apply the career offender guidelines because of the nature of the history, even if it's more legally applicable, it's inappropriate for him. So --

THE COURT: I don't think that any of the case law that's happened that's been handed down in the intervening period does away with the case law both from the circuit and the Supreme Court that says where the Court has some disagreement with either the policies embodied in the guidelines or does not believe — for example, with the crack guidelines, which was Gall or Dorvee which was the child porn guidelines where the Court believes that there is no empirical data to support the policies that are embodied in that guideline, that the Court can certainly depart from them under a policy reason, but also the Court still has the obligation

under 3553(a) to consider all of those factors which still include the policy considerations embodied in the guidelines obviously, which are advisory, but that the Court can still vary for any of the number of reasons that are listed in that statute including the nature and circumstances of the offense, which is a lot of the argument —

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Right.

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THE COURT: -- that you're making, and also the history and characteristics of the defendant before the Court.

None of these cases really change that --

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Absolutely, Judge. All --

THE COURT: -- and can change that procedure.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: All I was suggesting was that if you had decided ahead of time that you were going to find that that guideline was too harsh for Mr. Love's conduct, that you would not have to resolve the issue of the legal applicability if you decided ahead of time that factually it wasn't appropriate in this case. That's all. It's a way out.

THE COURT: I understand your point. I have some reservations about that because, as you well know, right after Booker was decided there was just a lot of guesswork going around as to how Booker was actually going to be applied. And I think the first case that really gave us some real guidance within the circuit was Reena Raggi's opinion in Jones from 2006, that basically said this is the three-step process --

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Right.

THE COURT: -- that you have to go through to do that. But even since then, right, there has been a lot of clarification, if you will, both from the circuit and from the Supreme Court as to whether, for example, the guidelines are, per se, reasonable. Obviously, they are not per se reasonable. And whether the Court can, as I said before, have policy disagreements with the guidelines and veer away from the guidelines and vary.

And that's happened in a lot of areas also with economic crimes, for example, not just child pornography, but economic crimes. Always of course staying within the bounds of what the statutory limits are whether there was a minimum or a maximum sentence, usually there is a maximum sentence, so always staying within the bounds of that.

So I'm a little loath to or reluctant -- loath is maybe too strong a word, but reluctant to just toss out the guidelines with the bath water and feel that nonetheless I think the cases have consistently said that as a first step -- and that's Gall, right? You take that language from Gall, that as initial matter, as a benchmark, the Court has to calculate the guidelines and then you take off from there. Whether you disagree or you want to vary or you want to depart, then that's where the next part of the tough work -- because it's all tough work but that's where the next part of

the tough work really comes in.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Other than that suggestion, Judge,
I have nothing further to add to the legal argument about
whether the career offender guideline should apply or not.

THE COURT: Thank you. First of all, I do want to thank both counsel for your very well drafted briefs, really appreciate it. It's a tough issue and the fact that you all took such care and took the time to extrapolate your views and to provide authority for your various positions is greatly appreciated by the Court.

So Beckels really changed things and as it's acknowledged by the defense in the subsequent briefing, post-Beckels in some ways -- and maybe this is too strong a phrase -- sort of took the wind out of your sails as far as the validity of residual clause. So we're sitting here at a point in time where the guideline that's at issue is the definition of the terms that are used in Section 4B1.1 of the guidelines, and I'm referring specifically to guideline 4B1.2 of the guidelines which contained the definitions of the term of the crime of -- of the term of crimes of violence, all right. That's pertinent here in two ways. Because the defense argument -- and feel free to interrupt me,

Mr. Kirchheimer, if I'm getting your argument wrong, there are two arguments essentially that are put forth by the defense, which is number one, that the bank robbery to which Mr. Love

1 pled quilty under 18 U.S.C. Section 2113(a) is not a crime of 2. violence. That's important because in order for the Court to 3 find, Mr. Love, that you are a career offender, the Court first has to make a determination that the crime that you 4 5 committed is a crime of violence under the ACCA, under the Armed Career Criminal Act. So that's one question that the 6 7 Court has to determine. 8 MR. GILMAN: Sorry, Your Honor. 9 THE COURT: Not ACCA, I'm sorry. 10 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Yes. 11 THE COURT: -- under the pertinent guideline. 12 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: The Career Offender Guideline. 13 THE COURT: The Career Offender Guideline, I'm sorry 14 I misspoke. Thank you. Which again is 4B1.1. 15 So the second point is that your previous state 16 court convictions for robbery, you have several for robbery in 17 the third degree, robbery in the second degree, and I think an 18 attempted robbery in the second degree, also don't fall under 19 the definition of crimes of violence and, therefore, don't 20 support the career offender finding. 21 Do I have it in a nutshell? 22 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Yes, Judge. 23 THE COURT: A lot of the earlier arguments stem from 24 the contention that the residual clause of the relevant

quideline was invalid given the Supreme Court's decision in

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2010 in *United States versus Johnson*, reported at 559 U.S.

133, or *Johnson* 1. Then there was a second decision by the Supreme Court, *Johnson* 2 in 2015. The question of whether or not the definition of violent crime was unconstitutionally vague though had not been decided by either of those two cases.

The Second Circuit had before it that issue or related issue in U.S. versus *Corey Jones* and it vacated its decision pending the Supreme Court's decision in *United States* versus *Beckels*, which was just decided a month or two -- a couple of months ago. Very recently, this year 2017.

The Supreme Court -- right, I'm sorry. So Johnson 1 addressed the force clause and Johnson 2 addressed the residual clause.

Beckels addressed the viability of the sentencing guideline and its definition of violent crime. And in summary, the Supreme Court held that that guideline was not void for vagueness. So the guideline is still a valid guideline. As such, to the extent that the defense has argued that the application note to that guideline doesn't apply because it's an invalid guideline, no longer holds water because the Supreme Court has spoken and it has said that it is a valid guideline and the application note applies. The application note clarifies that certain enumerated offenses, which include — and it has a whole laundry list under

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Application Note 1, includes the crime of robbery. To the extent that the defense has posited an argument that an ex-post facto application — an inappropriate ex-post facto application would occur if the Court applied the 2016 guideline manual which got rid of the residual clause in the Career Offender Guideline and simply enumerated what are considered crimes of violence no longer applies, because in essence the 2014 guideline manual with the application note results in the same definition.

MR. GILMAN: Your Honor, these crimes I think -- 2014, I apologize, Your Honor.

THE COURT: The 2014, I have the 2014 guideline up here and Application Note 1 says for purposes of this guideline, crime of violence and controlled substance offenses include the offenses of aiding and abetting, conspiring and attempting to commit those such offenses. And then crimes of violence includes murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, aggravated assault, forceable sex offenses, robbery, arson, it has more enumerated offenses. And it says, other offenses are included as crimes of violence if, A, that offense has an element of use, attempted use or threatened use of physical force against the person of another, or B — that doesn't apply. It talks about the use of explosives.

MR. GILMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So in the argument with respect to the

ex-post facto result if the 2016 guidelines were applied, the argument was that the 2014 guidelines manual would apply because Mr. Love's crimes occurred in an early part of 2015, so that would be the guideline manual that would be in effect at the time the offense was committed. So that's why we're talking about the 2014 guideline manual.

I'm just presenting in summary form the reasons for the Court's decision today because, of course, at the time of sentencing the Court is obligated to state its reasons on the record, but the Court intends to file a written opinion to more fully explain the decision. I'm sure you'll get a copy of it, Mr. Love, okay.

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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THE COURT: All right. So there being no ex-post facto application by using -- or result by the Court using the 2015 guideline manual, that's the guideline manual that's in effect today and that's the manual that the Court will use.

But the analysis doesn't stop there, right, because there is still the argument as to whether or not bank robbery is a crime of violence, because that's the first step in the career offender finding. Notably, neither side cited to any cases in that regard.

The Court found two cases that address this issue, one is a summary order from the Second Circuit. The other is a full decision. Both of them, notably -- it's odd all these

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cases are named Johnson, but it's Leonard Johnson versus the United States, it's a Second Circuit case decided February 25 of 2015, and that is cited at 779 F.3d 125. And there at pages 128 to 129 the Court says the following — and that was in connection with a conviction for being a felon in possession of a weapon as well as bank robbery. Using the firearm during and in connection with a crime of violence. And apparently there were several decisions that had been rendered by the circuit in the history of this case. There the Court held that among the crimes of violence that may serve as a predicate for a Section 924(c) conviction, the firearm conviction, are the bank robbery, which is the 2113 subdivision (a) robbery, and armed bank robbery offenses charged against Johnson in Counts One and Two.

And then, notably, in the case against Leonard

Johnson he had gone to trial, the jury convicted him of all of
the charged offenses and on appeal the circuit vacated the
conviction for the unarmed bank robbery because they said it
was a lesser included offense of the armed bank robbery and so
it was a duplicate. In other words, that the jury voted for
the same crime twice in essence, so they vacated the simple
bank robbery. However, that didn't change their finding that
that bank robbery was a crime of violence.

And in another decision decided after Johnson 2, after the Supreme Court decision in Johnson 2, this is a

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summary decision, United States versus Maslar, M-A-S-L-A-R, which can be found at 663 Federal Appendix 59. It was decided October 5th, 2016. In that case the defendant, like you, Mr. Love, pled quilty to bank robbery, let's call it simple bank robbery under 18 U.S.C. Section 2113(a). And there too, there was a challenge that was presented by the defendant to the district court's findings that that bank robbery charged was a crime of violence and the appellate court found that there was no error in that finding. And there a lot of the same arguments that are raised here were raised by the defendant, and the Court said on page 61, we conclude that Maslar's interpretations of the first clause of 18 U.S.C. Section 2113(a), in arguing that a conviction under that clause is not categorically, quote, a crime of violence, end of quote, or at least subject to dispute if not altogether unpersuasive. Maslar cites no authority that really supports either of the interpretations of 18 U.S.C. Section 2113(a) And in that case -- and the provision includes no language clearly indicating that a defendant can be convicted if he used, quote, force and violence or intimidation, end of quote, directed only at property or in the absence of intent, as Maslar suggests. So the circuit has maintained that bank robbery under 2113(a) is a crime of violence. Then we address the second prong of the defense

objections to the presentence report which is whether or not

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the crime of robbery under New York law is a violent crime. And it seems to me that that is foreclosed now under the 2016 guideline because robbery is listed as an enumerated offense. Notwithstanding that, it seems to this Court that any arguments that are based on the Second Circuit's vacated decision in Corey Jones, not only is it not persuasive, it actually invites the Court to speculate as to what the Second Circuit would do. Because the circuit expressly vacated that decision to await the Supreme Court's decision in Beckels, so we don't know how Beckels is going to influence the circuit's decision in Jones.

That being said, the circuit has repeatedly stated in all the cases that were cited by the government, and some of those cases are as recent as 2015, where the circuit has held that New York State robbery, including robbery 3, is a violent crime. And I'm aware of my colleague, Brian Cogan's decision in U.S. versus Terence Johnson where he has followed some other courts that have, including some other judges of this Court, who have found that robbery in the third degree or robbery generally under New York law is not a crime of violence. They all rely on these more than 20-year old cases from the appellate division to the State of New York, and again cites to all of these cases are going to be in my opinion.

The government has cited to a more recent case from

the New York State Court of Appeals *People* versus *Jurgin*,

J-U-R-G-I-N, I believe is the spelling. And I have to wonder whether that opinion from the New York State Court of Appeals doesn't call into question some of those prior appellate division cases and whether that Court would have struck down those robbery convictions as not being proper robberies to begin with. For example, the tapping, right, or the touching might have been considered I think under the 2015 decision by the New York State Court of Appeals, might have been considered jostling, which is a misdemeanor.

But I also think some of these cases also miss the point and I have to agree with some of the analysis by the government, and certainly anyone who has grown up in a poor neighborhood and has been the subject of any kind of robbery or anywhere that you might have subjected it, it has to be a frightening experience to be surrounded by a group of people who are demanding your money and the only implication can be is that if you don't give in that something terrible is going to happen to you. And that the only reason that nothing happened to you is because you gave in and handed over the money, which is generally what the cops say you should do anyway in the event of a robbery is not resist, to avoid the use of physical force, I think defies the reality of the situations. But I do think that there is some support even under Johnson 1 and at least some of the explanation that the

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Supreme Court gave or the description that they gave about force. I think that there is some justification I think for upholding the circuit's determination that has, to date, been unaltered that robbery is a crime of violence.

I understand, as my colleague Judge Cogan explained in Terence Johnson, that the circuits, many of those decisions, if not all of them, were summary orders, but after 2007 the circuit nevertheless, while they said that they don't have precedential value, nevertheless did permit their citation. That means that there is some precedential value, there is some persuasive value is one of the terms that we use when it's not binding precedent, there is some persuasive value and if I'm going to be persuaded by anybody I think I would be more persuaded by the circuit than an appellate decision.

So I find that robbery, at least as the law stands now, robbery is a crime of violence. Again, that's an alternate reason. I do find that under the 2015 -- excuse me, the 2016 guideline manual because robbery is, at the minimum, an enumerated offense, that the career offender -- that it is a crime of violence applicable to the Career Offender Guideline.

I am happy to accept your exception to my ruling.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Very briefly.

THE COURT: Yes.

1 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Two discrete --2 THE COURT: Again, this is going to be more 3 elaborated in the opinion, this is just summary and --4 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: On the ex-post facto and solely 5 for preservation --6 THE COURT: No, of course I understand. 7 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: On the ex-post facto issue 8 basically the flaw in the ex-post facto, as I understand it, 9 is that the Court is saying that because of the application note in the 2014 guideline, the 2016 guideline doesn't change 10 the law. So that's basically a finding that the 11 12 application --13 THE COURT: The net effect is that it doesn't change 14 it. 1.5 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Right. 16 THE COURT: Because even in the concurrent strike of 17 Sotomayor, she says, well, then the application note 18 explains --19 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Right. 20 THE COURT: -- that, the clause. 21 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: So my answer to that is two fold. 22 Again, very briefly because we're just talking preservation. 23 My answer is that number one, the 2014 application 24 note is arguably says that robbery is -- they're not saying 25 it's an enumerated crime, because it was an enumerated crime,

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that's an interpretation of the residual clause in 2014. The residual clause being whatever it says, i.e., in the note a robbery. So I would argue that that note has the same residual clause flaw as -- that we've been talking about.

Now since we're talking a guideline issue and since we're talking post-Beckels, my claim that that residual clause doesn't apply is not the constitutional claim, but it is the claim made in my last set of papers, that if you find that that language is unintelligible, void for vagueness because it's unintelligible for ACCA purposes, you can't use it for statutory purposes either and you can't say that robbery is a crime of violence in the 2014 version by virtue of it being a residual clause because the residual clause is, in the words of the Supreme Court, hopelessly -- suffers from hopeless indeterminacy. So even if we are not arguing -- we're not arguing with vagueness, you still can't rely on it for the definition of robbery because -- in my words, it's gobbledegook and so, therefore, it violates -- you can't set the guideline based on something that's hopelessly indeterminate.

THE COURT: That wasn't the holding of the Supreme Court.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Right, no, I understand. No, I'm not saying -- I'm saying my same statutory argument applies to the use of the 2014 guideline --

THE COURT: I got it.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: -- and, therefore, my argument is that the 2016 guideline is a substantive change, contrary to my client's interest and, therefore, it violates the ex-post facto and therefore you can't do that.

Argument number two on the same point is that, even if I'm wrong as to that part, taking the 2016 robbery or the 2014 application note robbery, neither one of them is — they just use the word "robbery" and neither one is a categorical robbery basically in terms of common law what a robbery has to mean, so, therefore, the same analysis of those appellate division cases you don't like, applies to that concept of robbery as well.

And while we're just on the one slight point —

THE COURT: I have to say just one thing because
having spent 23 years of my life in the state criminal justice
system as a prosecutor and then seven years as a judge and
doing appeals mind you, I have great difficulty with all these
arguments that say that robbery is not per se a crime of
violence at least in New York. What it may be in another
state, I can't speak to. But in New York. And the reason is
that New York State differentiated between the crime of
larceny, which is still a taking from the person, right?
They're still takings from a person, right? And the larceny
does not have any force or violence component, right? So as a

general matter, a pick-pocket is usually charged as a larceny, it's not charged as a robbery. And like some of the cases talk about, you know, a jostling which sometimes a pick-pocket might entail, the bump in the subway, I don't know will a New Yorker think that force is a bump in the subway, probably not, but — so then the New York State legislature made a separate crime of robbery and they included in there the use of force, the term force by itself presumes a level of violence. Are there gradations of violence, absolutely. There are gradations of violence. It also includes the threat of the use of force, right? And the use of violence.

So I have great difficulty sort of wrapping my head around any notion that the crime of robbery is per se not a crime of violence, and maybe that's just me. There are greater minds that, hopefully, will look at this and tell me -- explain to me why I am wrong, but it seems to me that you can't look at these crimes in a vacuum, right? Because the legislature spoke and the legislature may differentiated between the crime that is a taking of the person that doesn't involve any force. And they've also included the crime of extortion, right, which is another crime similar to the federal crime where there might be some implied harm that will come to a person in order to get them to give up the goods, so to speak.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Very briefly to finish the last

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     preservation point on those two -- those three appellate
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     division cases finding that robbery wasn't necessarily a
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     violent crime under the Johnson 1 definition. I remind the
     Court that that's not -- I mean, you know, I and my office
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     have been pushing that, but where we get it from is from the
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     language of Corey Jones and that part --
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               THE COURT: But Corey Jones does not exist.
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               MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Well, no, actually not --
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               THE COURT: That's a problem.
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               MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Actually not. We are currently --
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               THE COURT:
                          It's in limbo.
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               MR. KIRCHHEIMER: We submitted, you know, we're --
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               THE COURT: No, I know it's been --
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               MR. KIRCHHEIMER: We submitted briefs and, in fact,
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     some of the language in my papers I confess came from our
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     second brief in Jones.
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               THE COURT: But you can't rely on the original --
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               MR. KIRCHHEIMER: But --
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               THE COURT: -- which can't even be found anywhere
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     because it was completely eliminated --
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               MR. KIRCHHEIMER: But the --
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               THE COURT: -- from the universe.
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               MR. KIRCHHEIMER: -- the reason, Judge -- forget
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     about the residual clause, which is what it was talking about
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     and which is now all gone, but the reasoning of the import of
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those three appellate division cases is still, I would argue, is still valid reasoning and we'll see what happens once our next set of papers in *Corey Jones* --

THE COURT: I think -- and I haven't given the government a chance to say anything, I don't know if you want to throw anything in here.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Number one they're not supposed to.

THE COURT: Is there anything that you would like to say on behalf of the government?

MR. GILMAN: Your Honor, just very briefly. The government is in agreement with the Court, in that there just not exist — there is not an ex-post facto violation here because whether the Court considers either the current guidelines, the 2016 guidelines, or the 2014 guidelines that were in effect at the time of the crime, the result is the same, in that New York State robbery qualifies as a crime of violence categorically and also that the federal offense of bank robbery under 2113(a) also qualifies as a crime of violence.

THE COURT: So I think the one thing we can all agree on is that we really do need some clear guidance from somebody higher up than the district court as to how to apply all of these definitions and it has to be something that really comports with common sense and the reality of the world

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I think, and you know, not taken in a vacuum and taking into account at least in New York and obviously the circuit has to consider the case law as a whole in front of the circuit and its prior case law, but within the context of all of those larceny type cases where -- I mean, I don't think anybody has issue with the fact that murder or attempted murder is a crime of violence or kidnapping or anything of that sort, assault, anything of that sort. Where it comes in to is where you've got this whole range of ways in which the crime of robbery can be committed, right, range of ways in which larcenies can be committed, range of ways in which extortion can be committed, I think we do need to look at all of these different statutes together to see what the intention is of the legislature, when they pass these statutes what were they looking at, what was their intent in order to come to a determination that this is what it is, or adjust this categorical project. Something has to give here and I think what is clear is that we need some good guidance on this and I'm hopeful that we will get it in the future whether it's the Corey Jones case or any other case that comes up either before the circuit or before the Supreme Court. MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Again, very briefly my last point

in this area, it's sort of almost — it's an illustrative point rather than a legal point. As part of the first argument that federal bank robbery is not necessarily a crime

1 of violence, I would remind the Court of the facts of this 2. Because if there ever was a suggestion that there isn't case. 3 violent physical force in the terms of Johnson 1 bank robbery. 4 In this case where my client goes up to the teller, presents a 5 note, which the government kindly gave us a copy of it which I can hand up, saying this is an bank robber --6 7 THE COURT: You can hand it up. 8 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: -- and nothing more. There's 9 no --10 THE COURT: You have a copy of this I assume, 11 Mr. Gilman. 12 Yes, Your Honor. MR. GILMAN: 13 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: I got it from him. I've also got -- I submitted my prior briefs in the 14 15 first brief the exhibits were a picture of my client --THE COURT: Yes. 16 17 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: -- standing in line waiting to rob 18 the bank. 19 THE COURT: Keep in mind -- I understand that and 20 you made that argument in the papers and obviously that's an 21 argument you can make in mitigation, but keep in mind as well 22 that the circuit certainly is aware of the fact that included 23 in the 2113(a) bank robbery cases are cases where notes were 24 used, where no guns were used, no weapons were used, where 25

perhaps just like this, there is no explicit, like, I have a

gun, in reality he didn't have a gun, or I have a bomb and they really don't have a bomb or it's a fake bomb or any of that. I have to assume that the circuit is familiar with its prior case law when it makes a statement that bank robbery under 2113(a) is a crime of violence and there, too, you know, perhaps some clarification is —

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: In terms of threat and intimidation, the absolutely last point here, remember, there are three counts, one completed bank robbery --

THE COURT: Two more attempts.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: — and the two attempts, and then the two attempts. When the same thing happened, he handed up the note, this is an bank robber and basically the tellers laughed at him and he walked out. So in terms of assessing the inherent threat of that note, at least again — and it's not — I mean, they're supposed to be talking categorically, I don't know how much this matters, but in those last two attempts it didn't appear to intimidate anybody because they just said forget about it and he walked out. So that is I think —

THE COURT: But that's what makes it an attempt.

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Yes. But it's the -- but in terms of whether or not bank robbery is a categorically violent -- a crime of violent -- violent physical force, I argue that you have to remember -- and it includes this kind of bank robbery.

1 And I have to say before the quilty plea in this case I 2. included the Second Circuit note cases in my first brief, 3 Lawrence and Henson, where there were notes and the court said a note was sufficient because of intimidation. 4 5 THE COURT: Right. 6 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: So that in taking the guilty plea 7 in this case I had to research whether this was sufficient --That was sufficient. 8 THE COURT: 9 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: -- to amount to a bank robbery, 10 Is but that's why I find it extraordinarily ironic and it. 11 that we're saying this is a violent crime when it was 12 committed in this manner when it was not. 13 THE COURT: Understood. Understood. Given the 14 Court's ruling the guideline ranges calculated by probation 15 applies and that provides a total offense level of 29. 16 Mr. Love, whether he's a career offender or not, has a 17 Criminal History Category VI, I think he had a total of 22 18 criminal history points and there is a sentence guideline 19 range of 151 to 188 months, and even though that had been 20 calculated under the 2015 guideline manual, nothing has 21 changed in that regard and the numbers are still the same. It. 22 would have been the same in the 2014 manual as well. 23 So we get to that point, Mr. Love, where I give the 24 lawyers an opportunity to point out whatever factors they deem

are appropriate for the Court to consider in imposing

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1 sentence. I'll start with the government and, 2. Mr. Kirchheimer, if there is anything you want to add, as I 3 said I thoroughly reviewed your submissions, but if there's anything else you want to add besides what you said here today 4 5 already and in your brief, of course I'll hear from you. Mr. Gilman. 6 7 Thank you, Your Honor, just very MR. GILMAN: 8 The government submits that a guidelines sentence on 9 Count One is appropriate here. That range being a sentence of 10 imprisonment from 151 to 188 months with any term of 11 imprisonment on Counts Two and Three to be served concurrently 12 with that sentence, quideline sentence on Count One. 13 The defendant --14 THE COURT: Are you saying they should run 15 consecutively to Count One? 16 MR. GILMAN: Concurrently, Your Honor. 17 THE COURT: Concurrently. All counts to run 18 concurrently. 19 MR. GILMAN: Yes, Your Honor. And the defendant does have an extensive criminal history, as Your Honor has 20 21 already recognized today. Previously, in fact Your Honor has 22 sentenced the defendant for robbery and thus there is -- the 23 defendant seems to be undeterred in many ways by sentences, 24 the kind he's received and today's sentence would be 25

substantially more than that and thus would provide adequate

deterrents under 3553(a) factors.

That said, Your Honor, the government recognizes that the defendant's bank robbery here, while bank robbery is a serious crime, the defendant's bank robbery is on the scope of the less serious one could possibly commit in the bank robbery context and that is why the government is taking the position it is today that a guideline sentence on just one count of conviction would be appropriate.

THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Kirchheimer, anything you wanted to add?

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Just briefly, Judge, and it's the same, I would ask that you -- you found him to be a career offender and set -- found the Career Offender Guideline appropriate. I would ask that as a matter of departure or more properly I think these days we're supposed to call it variance, that the conduct here is more properly assessed by the bank robbery guideline. I've calculated in my papers that the bank robbery guideline would be 84 months to 105, given he pled to all three counts, reminding the Court that he pled to -- the government offered him to plead just to the one count, but included an appeal waiver, so he pled to all three counts to preserve his right to appeal. Had he pled to one count that the government demanded of him, these guidelines would have been 63 to 78 months.

I would argue that the Court should apply one of

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those two -- or should vary down to one of those two quidelines. And the reason for that is exactly what we've been talking about for the last six months in this case. while the law -- the case now is that this bank robbery was, in fact, a violent crime within the terms of the Career Offender Guideline, everyone in this room agrees, I think -- I think I've heard everyone say that they agree -- that this is as non-violent a bank robbery as you can possibly have. government just said that more or less, in my words not his, I think that's been implicit in what the Court has said. that even if legally the Career Offender Guideline is appropriate, which again the law of the case now is that it is, that it's just odd to apply the -- the logic of the Career Offender Guideline is entirely appropriate. That if you have a repeated number of violent crimes you ought to get more I don't think anybody ever has assailed the logical structure of the sentencing quidelines. However, if the -basically the doubling of the sentence range is based upon the fact that Mr. Love is a violent criminal, I find that hard given the facts of the case. He's a man who walks up to banks, not only these but the state court ones as well as in the past and hands a note and says, in terms of the Woody Allen movie, "this is a gub" -- well, he doesn't even say that, he just says, you know, this is an bank robber. submitted pictures of his posture, the fact that he's not

menacing, that he waited in line to do it.

And it is, I think, inappropriate to use the violence enhancement to double his guidelines in such a non-violently committed crime. That's completely separate and apart from, you know, all this — all the Beckels and Johnson stuff about whether it is or isn't, and that is agreeing that the structure of the guidelines by having an enhancement for these kind of repeated offenses is perfectly rational. It's just not rational to apply it to someone who is as non-violent as him. That's been my position in all these papers ever since — since the first set of papers we filed. It's hard now to remember when, I don't remember when those were.

I do have to say that I -- just taking my -- when we did the plea allocution in front of the magistrate judge, when we did the plea allocution I had to research the federal law of bank robbery -- before that I hadn't done it in about 16 years -- to see if this was enough to -- if handing a note saying this is an bank robber is enough to constitute -- legally sufficient to constitute a robbery.

And so I'd argue my ignorance as an example of how unusually non-violent this crime was. Again, I -- I, unfortunately, found the federal cases which say a, you know, note bank robbery is enough, so it is, but that's just another example of how incredibly non-violent, non-threatening it was.

For those reasons I ask you to impose a sentence at

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the bottom of one of the two guideline ranges, 84 to 105, or 63 to 78. 84 to 105 is what the guidelines would have been if he were not a career offender, but he plead to three robberies, two attempted robberies because of the enhancement for grouping. Or -- which was demanded -- which happened only because we pled to the entire indictment because of the government's insistence on an appeal waiver. And that had he pled to the one robbery only, you know, the price of wanting to do an appeal was -- the guidelines would have been 63 to 78. I would ask the Court to impose the bottom of one or the other of those ranges because of the non-violent manner of the commission of this crime.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Kirchheimer. Mr. Love, you have a right to make a statement to the Court, is there anything that you would like to say?

THE DEFENDANT: No, no, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So we've been here for a while, we had a lot of discussion. Like I told you in the beginning, there's a lot that the Court has to consider in determining what sentence to impose. Like I said, we have to start with the guidelines even though they are advisory and not binding on the Court and the Court is always hopeful it gets it right and then that it's made the proper determination and that's the Court's obligation to do that.

The Court has to consider whether any departures are

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appropriate either above the quideline range or below the guideline range. I've considered any of the departures that are contained in the guidelines, again, that are advisory and finds that none are really applicable here, but the Court doesn't stop at that analysis there. The Court has to consider the 3553(a) factors which we mentioned earlier and which your attorney has mentioned as well. And like I mentioned to you before, those factors are essentially goals of sentencing that should be achieved whenever a federal judge imposes sentence and it is in the statute in 18 U.S.C. Section That's where it gets its name. And that statute 3553(a). starts with what's called a Parsimony Clause that says that whatever sentence the Court imposes should not be greater than necessary to achieve those goals of sentencing. Some of them apply, some of them don't apply. Applicable here are the nature and circumstances of your offense. A lot has been discussed about that. Your history and characteristics and there is a lot about that in the submissions from your attorney as well as here today.

The sentence should reflect the seriousness of the offense, promote respect for the law and provide just punishment for the offense and also afford adequate deterrents to criminal conduct in society as a whole and specifically protect the public from any further crimes that you might commit.

It should provide the defendant before the Court with any needed educational or vocational training, medical care or other correctional treatment in the most effective manner. Restitution is mandatory in this case. I believe losses were only sustained by the victim in Count One, and that is mandatory in a case such as this.

I'm not going to say anything more about the guidelines. What I will say is that on the one hand you have had a very difficult life, difficult childhood. You've had a life that has been marked by long-term use of drugs and also perhaps some mental health issues as well that perhaps that have not really been adequately addressed. You have spent a substantial part of your life in and out of jail beginning with age 17.

With respect to Criminal History Category VI, a person falls in that category if they have at least 13 criminal history points or more, and in your case you have 22 and that doesn't include eight prior convictions for which no points were assessed, and the Court has to take that into account. Your criminal history starts at the age of 17 with a robbery 3 where you stole someone's earrings, you said you had a gun.

And also the fact that while you've been in custody in the state court system you've had a lot of disciplinary action taken against you for a variety of issues including

creating disturbances, disobeying direct orders, fighting.

You've been arrested for assault while on parole. In fact,
you've rarely had any parole time where you weren't violated
one way or another. And you do have a history of convictions
for violence towards individuals. It seems like mostly women,
perhaps the same person, not clear to me from the writeup, but
causing injury, violating orders of protection. You've had
bench warrants during the life of some of these cases. You
violated probation. You've had convictions for contempt of
court for violating protection orders.

You've had, as we discussed, a number of robbery offenses. You've had some minor offenses for fare beating, drug possession, simple drug possession. In 2002, you had another assault three conviction and also you've made threats to the victim in the past. After that you had another robbery conviction that was a chain snatch, there was injury to the complainant in that case. And you had disciplinary actions against you in the state corrections system including possession of contraband, threats, providing false information. Again, you violated the orders of protection, you absconded from parole. You had yet another criminal contempt conviction for violating a Court order, order of protection. You threatened the victim in writing and telling her that you'd get a gun and kill her.

In another attempt robbery conviction in 2009 you

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threatened the use of a gun and removed property that was a bank robbery. You seem to like Popular Community Bank which was the victim I think twice in this case. And that's the first time that you threatened the use of a firearm in passing a note in a bank robbery.

In another case in a robbery 2 conviction you displayed a knife and actually hit the complainant in that case and caused injury.

So you have had a number of bank robberies, robberies from individuals, it's -- while, thankfully, there was no violence in this case, you have a history that does seem to indicate that if need be you will resort to violence and the Court has to consider that in terms of protecting the public. You are a serial robber, whether it's influenced by your drug addiction. You've got really no employment history to speak of. You've got no stable home to speak of either. But the Court has serious concerns about the fact that you might recidivate and put the public at risk.

By the same token, I do think that the guideline range under the Career Offender Guideline as applied is too onerous a guideline. And I also think that even applying a total offense level of 22, in other words, not using the career offender finding is not adequate either.

With respect to the plea of guilty penalty, as it has been called by your attorney, you allocuted under oath

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that nobody forced you to plead guilty. You understood that the plea of guilty to the indictment was to preserve your ability to appeal in this case, and so that was a conscious decision that you made. And so I can't -- I'm reluctant to apply a so-called penalty here analysis.

The Court finds that a sentence of 120 months is appropriate under all of the circumstances, that's on each of the three counts to run concurrent with a three-year term of supervised release on each count also to run concurrent with each other. I would note that probation's recommendation on each count was 188 months, which was the high end of the Career Offender Guideline.

Restitution is ordered in the amount of \$300 under Count One. And that's payable at the rate of \$25 per quarter and 10 percent of your gross income while you're on supervised release.

The following special conditions of supervision apply: You may not possess any firearm, ammunition or destructive device. You must comply with the restitution order. I know the indictment charged forfeiture, but I don't think the government is seeking forfeiture. Correct?

MR. GILMAN: That's correct, Your Honor, we will not seek forfeiture because the amount is -- because of the amount under \$300 and we'll leave it to restitution for that amount to be reclaimed.

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THE COURT: You must comply with the restitution order of the Court and that means that you must make full financial disclosure to probation in order to determine your ability to pay. Upon request, you must provide to probation all your financial records including any commingling income, expenses, assets and liabilities including any income tax returns with the exception of the financial reports, accounts that you report, I don't think you had any, and noted in the presentence report you're prohibited from maintaining and/or opening any additional individual and/or joint checking, savings or other financial accounts for either personal or business purposes without the knowledge and approval of the Probation Department. You must cooperate with the probation officer in the investigation of any of your financial dealings and provide truthful monthly statements of your income and expenses. You must cooperate in signing of any authorization to release information forms permitting probation to access your financial information and records.

You must participate in an out-patient drug

treatment program, if appropriate at that time. So, first,

there has to be an evaluation and, if appropriate, an

out-patient treatment program. You'll have to contribute

to -- that's a program that's approved by the Probation

Department. You must contribute to the cost of that treatment

not to exceed an amount determine reasonable by the Probation

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Department's sliding scale for substance abuse treatment service and cooperate in securing any applicable third-party payment, that's like insurance or Medicaid. You must disclose all financial information and documents to probation so they can determine your ability to pay.

You must not consume any alcohol or any kind of drug or synthetic drugs, nothing, before, during and after treatment unless you're given a prescription by a doctor, a licensed doctor or a psychiatrist and you have to provide proof of that prescription to probation.

You must submit to random drug testing during and after treatment to ensure abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Probation had recommended a curfew, but the defendant is essentially homeless, so for the first six months the defendant shall reside in a residential reentry center or a halfway house, or until a suitable home is obtained that's approved by probation.

What that means is the first six months you're going to have to be in a halfway house unless you're able to find suitable housing that probation approves of. If you do that let's say within the first two months of being at the halfway house, you can move out of the halfway house into the home as long as probation approves of it.

Do you understand that?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

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MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Judge, might I suggest since you're basically that condition adds approximately six months to the sentence, that to take account for that six month halfway house, obviously it's eminently rational that you reduce the prison sentence from 120 months to 114 months on the assumption that he's going to have an extra six months on the beginning, on the front end of the supervised release, so make it 114 months plus six months RRC while on supervised release. THE COURT: No, that application is denied. You must maintain lawful verifiable employment and/or participate in some sort of educational program including getting your GED, or vocational program. There is a 300-dollar special assessment. Let me be clear, the GED is a separate condition because for a lot of vocational programs you need have a GED first. A lot of training programs you need to have that first. I'm hopeful that you're going to make productive use of your time while in custody and get your GED while you're inside so that you can have a leg up when you come out. Okay? So that's \$100 per count. No fine is imposed due to

So that's \$100 per count. No fine is imposed due to the priority of restitution as well as inability to pay.

There are no outstanding counts open or indictments, underlying indictments, correct?

MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Correct.

1 MR. GILMAN: That's correct, Your Honor. 2 THE COURT: Any recommendation to the Bureau of 3 I was going to recommend that he be provided the opportunity to participate in RDAP. 4 5 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Yes, Judge, I was going to ask you 6 that. 7 I'm also going to recommend that he be THE COURT: 8 provided with mental health treatment. 9 Would you be amenable to that, Mr. Love? 10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor. 11 THE COURT: I'm going to ask for that as well. 12 What about location of the facility? 13 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Judge, I'd ask you recommend a 14 facility as near New York State as possible, near New York 15 City, so that would be -- but I don't want --16 THE COURT: Fort Dix or something like that? 17 MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Fort Dix or Danbury. I don't want 18 to specify a particular one because I don't know about 19 security classification. 20 THE COURT: Yes, I would not specify one in any 21 event. And understand, Mr. Love, that where you are housed 22 depends on a lot of different factors not the least of which 23 is something as simple as availability of space. And like 24 what Mr. Kirchheimer specified, whatever security level you 25 get designated that's entirely up to the Bureau of Prisons.

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You are advised that you have a right to appeal from the sentence and judgment of the Court. You may be entitled to be represented by counsel on appeal. If you cannot afford counsel you may ask for the Court to provide counsel for you, or if you cannot afford the cost and the fees for the appeal you may ask for leave to proceed by way of poor person relief. And I would ask that Federal Defenders to stay on for that requisite 14-day period --MR. KIRCHHEIMER: Yes, yes, Judge, I will do so. THE COURT: -- to file a notice on his behalf --MR. KIRCHHEIMER: I will do so. THE COURT: -- if that's what he wishes. Is there anything else I may have missed? MR. GILMAN: Nothing further from the government, Your Honor. Thank you. MR. KIRCHHEIMER: No, Judge. THE COURT: One question, I know Mr. Love I think may have mentioned to probation that he was interested in going to Alabama, living in Alabama; is that right? THE DEFENDANT: Yeah, I don't know what my sister's gonna do though. Just so that you know, in the event that THE COURT: a suitable home can be found for you in Alabama, that may not be a problem. That's a request you make through probation and then the supervision can be coordinated with Alabama. I would